



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

31 DECEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – New Variant of SARS-CoV-2 Found in Southern California

(U) Governor Gavin Newsom announced yesterday that the first detected case of the new and apparently more contagious variant of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 has been found in a San Diego man with no travel history, alluding to community spread of the mutated virus. The Colorado and California cases have triggered a host of questions about how the variant circulating in UK arrived in the US and whether it is too late to stop it now, with top experts saying it is probably already spreading elsewhere in the US.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [US News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US CBP Officers Seize Over \$2.5 Million in Hard Narcotics

(U) Laredo – US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers seized methamphetamine that totaled over \$2.5 million in street value in one enforcement action. The seizure occurred earlier this week, when a CBP officer referred a vehicle for secondary inspection. CBP officers examined the vehicle utilizing a non-intrusive imaging system examination, resulting in the discovery of 100 packages totaling 128.83-pounds of methamphetamine hidden within the vehicle. CBP officers seized the narcotics and vehicle.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [CBP Press Release](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Cyber-Attack on US Government May Have Started Earlier

(U) Washington DC – The unprecedented cyber-attack on US government agencies reported this month may have started earlier than last spring as previously believed. US investigators originally thought that the attack on government agencies and private industry targets began in March or April 2020, including breaches of US Treasury, State, Commerce and Energy Departments. State-backed Russian hackers were identified as the suspects. Russia has denied involvement.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) District of Columbia – US State Department Considers Designating Cuba a State Sponsor of Terrorism

(U) Washington DC – The government of Cuba could be added to the US list of states that sponsor terrorism. A designation would trigger automatic sanctions against Cuba's government and add it to a list including North Korea, Iran, and Syria as the only nations the US has designated as state sponsors of terrorism. The penalties for appearing on the state sponsors of terrorism list include strict international sanctions and limits on US foreign aid. The State Department announced this past May that Cuba was among five countries that failed to fully cooperate with US counterterrorism efforts. The other four were the three on the state sponsor list and Venezuela.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [FOX News](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Wisconsin – Vaccine Deliberately Spoiled by Worker

(U) Grafton – A Wisconsin health system said that 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine that had to be discarded after they were left unrefrigerated now appear to have been deliberately spoiled by an employee. Aurora Medical Center first reported on the spoiled doses last week and said they had been accidentally left out overnight by an employee. In a statement late yesterday, the center said the employee involved acknowledged that they intentionally removed the vaccine from refrigeration. The center said they had fired the employee and referred the matter to authorities for further investigation. Their statement said nothing about a possible motive for the action.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan – ISIS Finance Manager Arrested

(U) Kabul – Afghanistan security forces have arrested six terrorists, including the finance manager of the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). They were arrested from Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province. A government spokesman, said the ISIS finance chief in Afghanistan, was arrested in Jalalabad. He said the arrest came during an overnight operation by the National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel in Bezakamalati area of Jalalabad's fourth police district. Three other suspects were also caught.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [India Blooms](#)

(U) Syria – Attack on Bus Kills 28

(U) Damascus – An attack on a passenger bus in southern Syria yesterday killed 28 civilians and injured others. The Syrian state news agency SANA did not say how the attack was carried out but called it a terrorist attack on the bus traveling in the Kobajjep area in southeastern Deir el-Zour province. The bus was traveling between the central Homs province and Deir el-Zour to the east. The area was once controlled by ISIS militants, who despite losing territorial control in Syria, are still active in the desert and rural areas of eastern and southern Syria.

SOURCE: 30 December 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

UNCLASSIFIED